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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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August 31, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

I write today to urge you to continue your administration's work to lower energy costs for American families by limiting the export of both crude oil and natural gas while supporting Ukraine and our allies with their energy challenges in the face of Russian aggression.

Last quarter, exports of crude oil from the Gulf coast reached record highs of 3.3 million barrels, even as the average price of gasoline hit \$5.03 per gallon in June. Americans are feeling the pain at the pump as a direct result of Vladimir Putin's cruel and unnecessary invasion of Ukraine, and we have a responsibility to relieve this burden in any way we can.

Until 2015, the Energy Policy and Conservation Act's ban on crude oil exports had protected American consumers for nearly half a century until it was recklessly repealed by Republican members of Congress. The Government Accountability Office found that the repeal led to higher prices for consumers. Thankfully, Congress preserved the President's ability to restrict exports in the case of an emergency, and the current economic circumstances call for you to exercise this authority.

Like many Americans, my constituents are increasingly concerned about energy costs as we near the fall and winter seasons. Almost half of all U.S. homes utilize natural gas for heating, and the U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that energy costs for these homes will increase by 30 percent over the course of this winter, potentially more so in cold states like New Hampshire. It is vital that we do all we can to lower costs for families before temperatures begin to drop by banning natural gas exports in tandem with crude oil, other than in cases where we are directly assisting Ukraine and our allies.

I appreciate your administration's efforts on this issue to date. Gas prices have declined for eleven straight weeks, providing much needed relief to working families, but more action is needed. We must use every available tool to address this issue, and it's in the best interest of all Americans to implement this commonsense policy. Please don't hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions. I appreciate your attention to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Pappas". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress